

**Amendments to the Claims**

**The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.**

1. A system for planning energy supply for energy consumers, said system comprising:
  - a first sub-system operatively associated with at least one energy coordinating body;
  - a second sub-system operatively associated with at least one energy supplier; and
  - a communication network between said first sub-system and said second sub-system, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes an interface for exchanging energy planning information between said sub-systems and for negotiating an energy supply specification from said at least one energy supplier to said energy consumers.
2. The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said communication network includes a first local area network and a first ICCP server operatively associated with said first sub-system, a second local area network and a second ICCP server operatively associated with said second sub-system, and a global communication network between said first and second ICCP servers.
3. The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said communication network is a global communication network.
4. The system as recited in Claim 3, wherein said global communication network is the Internet.
5. The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one energy coordinating body is an energy management system.
6. The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said at least one energy supplier is a power plant.

7. The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes a processor; and wherein the interface of each of said first and second sub-systems provides communications between said processors for automated optimization of energy supply planning.

8. The system as recited in Claim 7, wherein each of said interfaces exchanges at least two messages between said first and second sub-systems, said messages being related to negotiation of an energy supply specification from said at least one energy supplier for said energy consumers.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

12. The system as recited in Claim 8, wherein said energy supply specification includes a plurality of energy supply sub-specifications.

Claims 13-34 (canceled)

35. A system for planning energy supply for energy consumers, said system comprising:  
a first sub-system operatively associated with a first energy management system;  
a plurality of second sub-systems, each of said second sub-systems being operatively associated with a corresponding second energy management system; and  
a communication network between said first sub-system and said second sub-systems, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes an interface for exchanging energy planning information between said sub-systems and for negotiating an energy supply specification for said energy consumers.

36. A system for planning energy supply for energy consumers, said system comprising:

a first sub-system operatively associated with an energy supplier having a plurality of energy sources;

a plurality of second sub-systems, each of said second sub-systems being operatively associated with a corresponding one of said energy sources; and

a communication network between said first sub-system and said second sub-systems, wherein each of said first and second sub-systems includes an interface for exchanging energy planning information between said sub-systems and for negotiating an energy supply specification for said energy consumers.

37. The system as recited in Claim 36, wherein said energy supplier is a power plant having a plurality of turbo sets; and wherein said energy sources are the turbo sets of said power plant.

Claims 38-39 (canceled)

40. An energy planning system for planning energy supply from a plurality of energy suppliers for energy consumers, said system comprising:

a communication interface to said energy suppliers;

a processor operatively associated with said communication interface;

a first routine executed by said processor for exchanging energy planning information through said communication interface between said processor and said energy suppliers; and

a second routine executed by said processor for negotiating an energy supply specification from said energy suppliers to said energy consumers.

41. The energy planning system as recited in Claim 40, wherein said first routine exchanges at least two messages between said processor and a corresponding one of said energy suppliers, said messages being related to said negotiated energy supply specification.

42. An energy planning interface to an energy management system for use in planning energy supply from an energy supplier for energy consumers, said energy planning interface comprising:

- a communication interface to said energy management system;
- a processor operatively associated with said communication interface;
- a first routine executed by said processor for exchanging energy planning information through said communication interface between said processor and said energy management system; and
- a second routine executed by said processor for negotiating an energy supply specification from said energy supplier to said energy consumers.

43. The energy planning interface as recited in Claim 42, wherein said first routine exchanges at least two messages between said processor and said energy management system, said messages being related to said negotiated energy supply specification.

44. A method of planning energy supply, said method comprising the steps of:

- employing at least one energy coordinating body;
- employing at least one energy supplier;
- receiving and coordinating requests for energy at said at least one energy coordinating body;
- exchanging energy planning information related to said requests for energy between said at least one energy coordinating body and said at least one energy supplier; and
- negotiating an energy supply specification responsive to said requests for energy and from said at least one energy supplier.

Claims 45-52 (canceled)

53. A method of planning energy supply, said method comprising the steps of:

- employing at least one energy coordinating body;
- employing at least one energy supplier;

receiving requests for energy from a global communication network at said at least one energy coordinating body;

employing said global communication network to exchange energy planning information related to said requests for energy between said at least one energy coordinating body and said at least one energy supplier; and

employing said global communication network to negotiate an energy supply specification from said at least one energy supplier and responsive to said requests for energy.

54. The method as recited in Claim 53, further comprising employing the Internet as said global communication network.